

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as currently amended and in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 38-42, 44-48, 50, 52, and 53 are presently active in this case. Claims 41, 42, 46, and 48 have been amended by the current amendment. Claim 38 has been indicated as being allowable. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowability.

In the outstanding office action, claims 41, 42, 46, and 48 were rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, for being indefinite. In response, each of those claims has been amended to correct a dependency issue. As amended, the insufficient antecedent basis issue identified for each of the claims has been rendered moot. No further rejection on this basis is therefore anticipated.

Claims 39, 40, 42, 44-46, 50, 52, and 53 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent No. 5,087,870 to Salesky et al. Applicant respectfully traverses. Applicant points out that independent claims 39, 40, and 47 define a microprocessor including, among other things, (i) a register to store a register value corresponding to a threshold temperature and (ii) a programmable thermal sensor to generate a first interrupt signal in response to a microprocessor temperature exceeding the threshold temperature. Independent claims 50 and 52 define, among other things, (a) generating a temperature signal within a microprocessor indicative of (corresponding to) the temperature of the microprocessor and (b) generating an interrupt signal in response to the temperature signal indicating that the first threshold temperature level has been exceeded.

In contrast thereto, the Salesky et al. patent discloses an electronic load circuit which operates in constant resistance, constant voltage, or constant current modes at levels selected by the user of the electronic load. When one of the three modes causes an overpower condition which is detected by the circuit, then a constant power mode is activated.

The office action asserts on page 3 that the power control circuit of Salesky et al. includes means for storing a pre-programmed value. Applicant first points out that the “PROG” signal relied upon in the Office Action does not correspond to a threshold temperature. Rather, the “PROG” signal represents the programmed power level of the power to be dissipated by the electronic load in response to a load demand selected by the user of the electronic load. See column 4 lines 34-39 of Salesky et al. Applicant further points out that the Salesky et al. patent does not disclose the origin of the “PROG” signal. That is, it is unclear from Salesky et al. whether the “PROG” signal originates on the electronic load circuit or externally. See Figure 2 of Salesky et al..

The Salesky et al. patent also fails to teach or suggest a programmable thermal sensor. The circuit illustrated in Figure 3 of Salesky et al. is an overpower detector. Nowhere does Salesky et al. teach or suggest that the overpower detector generates a signal in response to detecting that the temperature of a microprocessor has exceeded the threshold temperature corresponding to a value stored in a register on the microprocessor. Moreover, Salesky et al. do not teach or suggest generating an interrupt signal in response to the temperature signal indicating that the first threshold temperature level has been exceeded.

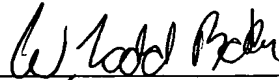
For the foregoing reasons, Salesky et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claims 38-40, 47, 50, and 52. The claims depending from claims 38-40, 47, 50, and 52 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that the independent claims from which they depend are believed to be allowable.

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In view of the foregoing, no further issues are believed to be outstanding. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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